

# Indicator #20: Work-related low back disorder hospitalizations

## Maryland State Occupational Health Indicators

### About this Indicator:

#### Why is this Indicator Important?

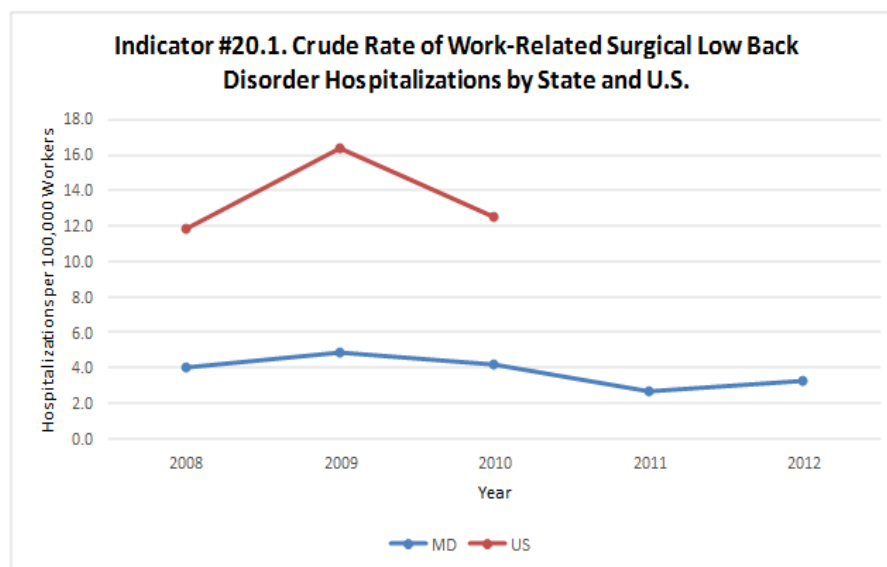
Hospitalizations for work-related back disorders have serious and costly effects, including: high direct medical costs, significant functional impairment and disability, high absenteeism, reduced work performance, and lost productivity. Well-recognized prevention efforts can be implemented for high risk job activities and reduce the burden of work-related low back disorders.

#### Limitation of Indicator:

Hospital discharge records are only available for non-federal, acute care hospitals. Many individuals with work-related injuries do not file for workers' compensation or fail to recognize work as the cause of their injury. Self-employed individuals are not covered by state workers' compensation systems.

For more information on this indicator or occupational health in Maryland, visit the DHMH website.

► Each year 15-20% of Americans report back pain, resulting in over 100 million work-days lost and more than 10 million physician visits. National Health Interview survey data estimates 2/3 of all low back pain cases are attributable to occupational activities. The cost of back pain is also disproportionate, as it represents about 20% of workers' compensation claims but nearly 40% of the costs. In 2003, 3.2% of the total US workforce experienced a loss in productive time due to back pain. The total cost of this productive time lost to back pain is estimated to be in excess of \$19.8 billion dollars.



**Indicator # 20: Hospitalizations for work-related low back disorders**

Year	Surgical Low Back Disorder Hospitalizations		Low Back Disorder Hospitalizations
	Number	Crude Rate*	
2008	114	4.0	491
			17.1
2009	139	4.9	524
			18.6
2010	117	4.2	432
			15.3
2011	76	2.7	382
			13.3
2012	94	3.2	330
			11.4

\* per 100,000 employed persons age 16 years or older

**Data Source for this Indicator:** Hospital discharge data (numerator); BLS Current Population Survey Data (denominator)

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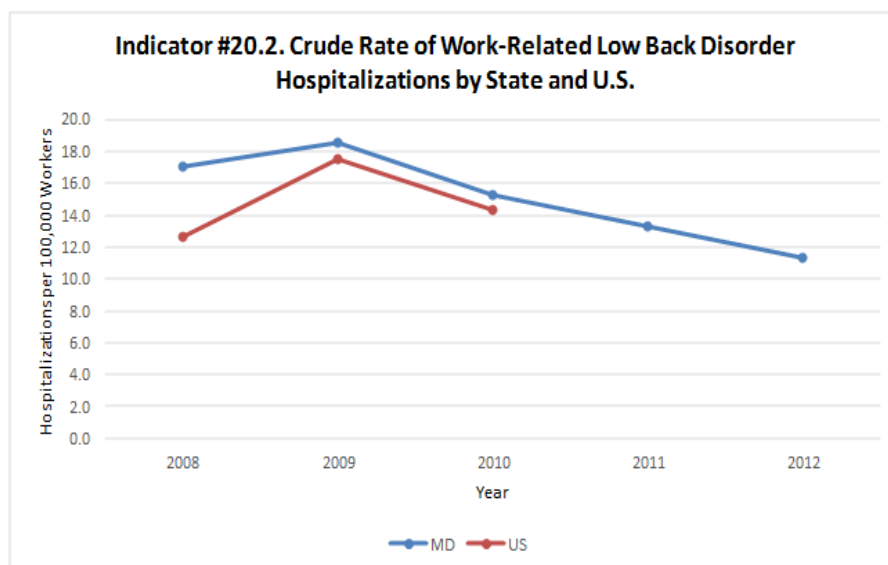
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